



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
ETHICS COMMITTEE OF THE KENTUCKY JUDICIARY
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JUDICIAL ETHICS OPINION JE-28

Informal

QUESTION #1: May a candidate for District Judge name his brother as Chairman of his campaign committee?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION #2: When campaign material is mailed to voters, must the envelope identify the sender with the usual "disclaimer"?

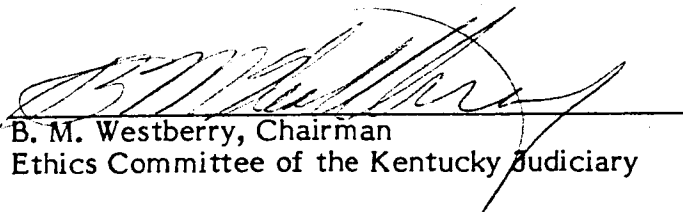
ANSWER: No.

REFERENCES: SCR 4.300, Canon 7A(2); KRS 121.190.

OPINION: (June 1981)

The Code of Judicial Ethics provides in Canon 7A(2) that a judicial candidate "should not himself solicit campaign funds, but he may establish committees of responsible persons to secure and manage the expenditure of funds for his campaign and to obtain public statements of support for his candidacy...." The Canon does not impose any restrictions or qualifications as to the personnel of such committees beyond the requirement that they be "responsible." Therefore we are of the opinion that the candidate's brother may serve on his campaign committee as long as he is "responsible."

In answer to the second question, we assume that the word "disclaimer" refers to the requirements of KRS 121.190 to the effect that campaign materials must "be identified by the words 'paid for by' followed by the name and address of the payer, or the committee, organization or association and its treasurer, on whose behalf the communication appears...." The office of the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance has informed us that the campaign material itself must carry the required information, but that the statute does not require the statement to be reproduced on the envelope.


B. M. Westberry, Chairman
Ethics Committee of the Kentucky Judiciary